

JANE WHITAKER VISITS THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD—HERE'S HER STORY

By Jane Whitaker

The principal industry conducted by the House of the Good Shepherd is the laundry, in which they do the work of several restaurants and many private families.

This laundry is situated in the original building, to which many additions have since been made, and the sister next conducted me to it.

The room we entered was very large, very light and the breeze blew in through several windows. There were girls sorting work; there were girls standing in front of mangles placing flat pieces in one side, while on the other side girls sat taking the pressed pieces out.

In a room adjoining, the washing-room, a sister volunteered to show me how the work is done, and led me to cylinder machines into which the soiled clothes are put and are cleaned by electricity. As she explained the process one of the girls came over and smiled and then showed me the machine into which the clothes are placed to be starched, which also runs by electricity, and the wringer that turns them out practically dry, and the machine in which the starch is prepared and the soap, and she seemed very proud of the equipment.

The floor was absolutely dry; the room was well ventilated, as were all the others, and only senior girls and women work throughout the entire laundry.

In another room girls were sorting finished pieces and placing them in bins to be wrapped and taken away by the drivers in the morning.

In another large room women were ironing with electric irons. Some women were pressing shirts, others lingerie and some of the work hanging up was so beautifully done that waists looked as though they had been dry-cleaned.

"Some of the girls are beautiful

laundresses," the sister told me, "and we feel that this work they do here gives them another occupation when they leave."

"What hours do they work?" I asked.

"From 8 in the morning until 11:30, then they stop until 1 and work from 1 until 3, when they stop for half an hour for what we call collation, which is a light lunch. They resume work at 3:30 and work until 4:45, but not a girl is at work in the laundry after 4:45."

A little, dark-haired girl, plump and healthy, came up and greeted the sister, affectionately, and as she seemed so very friendly I asked her if she liked being in the House of the Good Shepherd.

"I asked to be sent here," she answered me, and her beautiful brown eyes lowered. "I was sent to the Bridewell and I asked that I might come here instead, because I have been here before and I knew what it was like."

Outside the laundry, as we passed along a corridor, I saw through a crack in the door that a girl had hidden behind it, and while I met another one of the sisters and talked with her the girl remained in hiding.

The description I have given you of the junior portion of the building aside from the industrial portion fits the senior portion. There are two senior dormitories and off of each dormitory is a room in which a sister sleeps. There is a little slide in this door that can be opened at night in case any of the girls should be taken sick.

The senior recreation room still had the decorations placed there at Christmas, which gave it a very festive appearance, and a girl was getting her violin out of the case preparing to practice.

It had taken almost two hours to inspect the House of the Good Shep-